

The Mayan

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Location



- In Central America
- Next to the Gulf Of Mexico and Caribbean Sea
- Highlands, Northern Lowlands and Southern Lowlands sections

Mayan Population

- Cities had 10,000 to 60,000
- Up to two million people in total
- 750 AD in Tikal had 50,000 people
- No more than 450 people per square mile



Timeline

- 11,000 BC- First hunter gatherers settle in the Mayan highlands and lowlands
- 2000 BC-Village farming is developed
- 700 BC- Mayan writing is developed



Timeline



- 400 BC- Carved solar calendars in stone
- 300 BC- Adopt the idea of society ruled by nobles and kings
- 100 BC- city of Teotihuacan is founded

Timeline



- 500 AD- Tikal becomes the first great Maya city
- 869 AD- Tikal begins a decline
- 899 AD- Tikal abandoned
- 900 AD- Maya history begins to decline

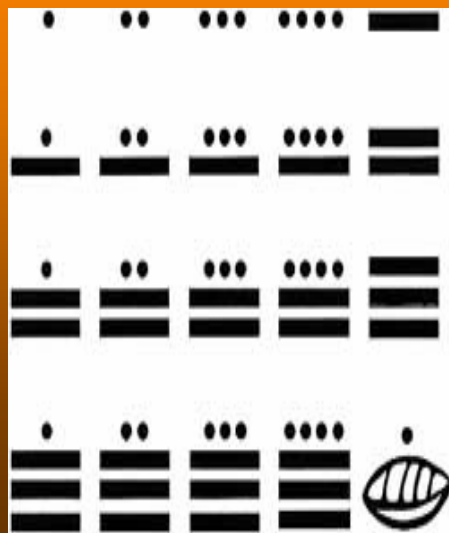
Maya Pyramids



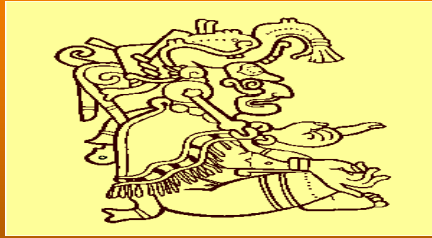
- Pyramids all around cities
- Had many steps on their pyramids
- Made of stone, cloth or marble.

Education

- First to use number zero
- Base number is twenty
- Symbols for numbers are a shell, dot, and bar
- Wrote books about the past
- Mostly home schooled



Arts



- Made masks, pottery, and graffiti
- Made images of blood sacrifice and wall buildings
- Had paintings of war

Clothing



- Made from cotton
- Women wore hupils and sometimes nose rings or earrings
- Men wore loincloth
- Rulers wore short skirts and sleeveless shirts
- Shoes were simple sandals made from leather

Language

- Had a written language
- Symbols for letters
- Had hundreds of hieroglyphics
- One of the most famous ones is ha for water



Religion



- Worshiped many gods
- Believed in blood sacrifice to keep a balance
- Main gods were the god of death and the creator god

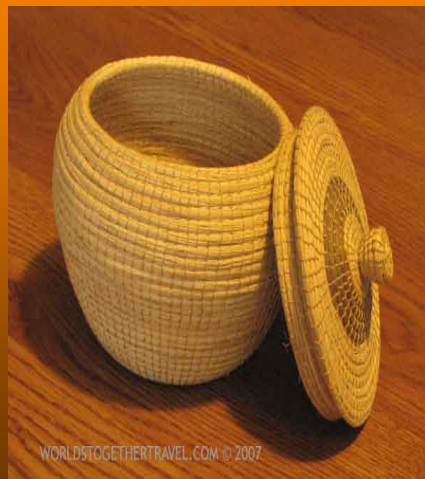
Housing



- Made of stone and mud
- Covered with limestone plaster
- Roofs were made of palm trees
- Two rooms: one for cooking, the other for sleeping Slept on woven mats

Jobs

- Farming, stone carving, and basket weaving
- Very successful with farming
- Traded for crops, baskets and many other things



Farming

- Most people worked as farmers.
- Main crops corn, coca, squash, beans, and cotton.



Rulers

- Did not have one dominant ruler
- Different noble families ruled each city



Rulers

- Same families ruled forever
- Crown was handed down from father to son
- When ruler dies he is put in pyramid called Chicken Itza



After Death

- Held special ceremony when ruler died
- People would travel a long way to see the burial ceremony



Art work

- Painted murals on walls
- Sculpted statues in wood, stone, and mettle.
- Magnificent basket and cloth weaving methods.
- Worked with silver and gold



Mayan Calendar

- Made from astronomy
- 365 days/eighteen months
- No Mayan took a trip, planted a crop, or got married on an unlucky day
- Five unlucky days



Decline of the Civilization

- No one knows what actually happened to the Maya
- Cities were abandoned
- It could have been from famine caused by bad weather or farming methods.
- Constant wars were to blame too

Bibliography

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